

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SOFIA 00454 041559Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 CU-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DHA-02 BIB-01 SCA-01

IO-13 /085 W

-----050519Z 023649 /20

R 041502Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2490

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USNATO BRUSSELS 549

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 0454

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIA FURTHER VAUNTS CSCE BASKET III OBSERVATION RECORD

REF: SOFIA 0433

1. BULGARIAN PRESS MARCH 3 CONTINUED RECITATION OF WHAT IT CONSIDERS GOOD GOB RECORD ON FULFILLMENT OF CSCE (REF) WITH EDITORIAL IN CENTRAL COMMITTEE PAPER RABOTNICHESKO DELO DEALING MAINLY WITH LIBERALITY OF ITS VISA POLICIES.

2. CONTRARY TO "MALICIOUS, PROVOCATIVE MATERIALS, ADDRESSED TO OUR COUNTRY, PUBLISHED IN WEST AND BROADCAST BY LONGTIME DISCREDITED 'SPECIALISTS ON BULGARIA' FROM 'FREE EUROPE'," LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SOFIA 00454 041559Z

BULGARIA "APPLIES ONE OF MOST LIBERAL REGIMES FOR FOREIGNERS ENTERING OUR COUNTRY AND THEIR MOVEMENT AROUND ITS TERRITORY.

3. ARTICLE THEN GOES ON TO CITE 1967 GOB ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISA-FREE REGIME FOR TOURISTS AND RECENT BILATERAL AGREEMENTS TO WAIVE TOURIST VISAS CONCLUDED WITH SOME 14 COUNTRIES INCLUDING (NATO MEMBERS) DENMARK,

NORWAY, ICELAND, AND PORTUGAL. ARTICLE NOTES THAT GOB CONTINUES TO DESIRE SUCH VISA AGREEMENTS WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES, "BUT MOST OF THEM REJECTED PROPOSALS, EVEN AFTER HELSINKI."

4. ARTICLE FURTHER CITES OTHER GOB MEASURES CONSISTENT WITH BASKET III, INCLUDING ONE-YEAR MULTIPLE ENTRY-EXIT VISAS FOR PERMANENTLY ACCREDITED FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, APPOINTMENT OF PRESS SPOKESMEN IN VARIOUS GOB OFFICES, AND "INCREASE OF IMPORT AND DISTRIBUTION OF SOME WESTERN NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES IN OUR COUNTRY AND OF OURS IN WESTERN COUNTRIES." FURTHER PARAGRAPH ALSO NOTES CONSONANCE OF PRACTICE OF GOB ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES -- DIVIDED FAMILIES, MIXED MARRIAGES, ETC. -- WITH FINAL ACT PROPOSALS.

5. COMMENT: LIKE OTHER RECENT BULGARIAN CSCE CONCOCTIONS, THIS ARTICLE IS SMOOTH BREW OF FALSE AND TRUE. PLACED AGAINST US VISA LEGISLATION, GOB HAS GREATER FLEXIBILITY. GOB CAN CLAIM THAT IT TREATS FOREIGN JOURNALISTS WELL, PARTLY BECAUSE THERE ARE AT PRESENT NO NON-BULGARIAN REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-COMMUNIST JOURNALS RESIDENT HERE AND NONE THAT WE KNOW OF KNOCKING AT DOOR AND ALSO BECAUSE BULGARIA IS SO BUTTONED DOWN THAT IT CAN AFFORD TO LET FOREIGN JOURNALISTS VISIT FREELY. APPOINTMENT OF SPOKESMEN IN DEPARTMENTS WILL ONLY FACILITATE CONTROLLING ACCESS FOR ANY JOURNALIST THAT COMES.

6. "SOME" IS OBVIOUSLY KEY WORD IN CLAIM THAT IMPORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SOFIA 00454 041559Z

AND DISTRIBUTION OF SOME WESTERN NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES HAS INCREASED, AND TO CONSIDER INCREASED GOB DISTRIBUTION OF BULGARIAN PROPAGANDA IN WEST FULFILLMENT OF HELSINKI SEEMS IRRELEVANT. WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT ANY WESTERN NON-COMMUNIST PUBLICATIONS ARE YET ON SALE ANYWHERE IN SOFIA, EVEN IN HOTELS FREQUENTED BY FOREIGNERS.

7. IT IS INTERESTING THAT BULGARIANS (OR SOVIETS FROM LBMTNGTMWY MAY BE STOCKING UP ON COUNTER-PLOYS AGAINST EXPECTED CRITICISM OF THEIR CLOSED SOCIETY AT BELGRADE) APPEAR ALSO WELL-ARMED WITH WESTERN CRITICISMS OF US RESTRICTIVE VISA PRACTICES. THE ARTICLE QUOTES, ACCURATELY WE BELIEVE, FROM A STORY BY PETER OSNOS OF WASHINGTON POST WHO WROTE THAT "PASSPORT-VISA FORMALITIES OF THE US, CANADA AND WESTERN EUROPE IN GENERAL ARE MORE OSSIFIED THAN THEY ARE IN EASTERN EUROPE" AND THAT "DIPLOMATS CONFESS THAT THE WEST IS VERY RELUCTANT TO LIBERALIZE RESTRICTIONS SURROUNDING THE VISITS OF TOURISTS FROM THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES."

HERZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, HUMAN RIGHTS, TREATY COMPLIANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SOFIA00454
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770076-0369
Format: TEL
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770391/aaaadcwb.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0fb3adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SOFIA 433
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3205437
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BULGARIA FURTHER VAUNTS CSCE BASKET III OBSERVATION RECORD
TAGS: PFOR, BU, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0fb3adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009